The Sinclair Desktop Publishing Journal

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What's This?

Good Grief...He's at it again. As I am sure you have noticed, this is not the same format as last time. Yes, that is true. This issue has been (or is being) created using a new desktop publishing program from Great Britain called Word-Master. So your first reaction is "Oh No, currency exchanging, overseas postal rates and long waits!" This is far from true because there is now a US distributor for Word-Master and it Jack Dohany.

As many of your remember Jack brought the Timex Sinclair community his wonderful Relocatable Aerco Printer driver and several other programs. He is now distributing Word-Master in the States for owners of TS2068s with some form of Spectrum emulator—Don't have an emulator you say, well you can get that from Jack as well.

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- Pixel Print Professional 5.0 Overview of Features
- A Look at the Print Factory's First Edition Program
- Where to Write

A New Professional DTP

This spring marked the return of one of the top names in Timex Sinclair programming and the release of the latest upgrade to a very popular Desktop Publishing program for the TS2068. If you have not guessed by now, I am speaking of Stan Lemke and his latest release of the Pixel Print Professional 5.0.

Pixel Print Professional 5.0 Features the following integrated modules:

Pixel Print Plus!
Tasword/MScript Conversion
Create a Document
Pixel Artist
Print a Document
Print a Page
Customize

Pixel Print Professional 5.0 was released in February of this year and combines many of the same features of past Stan Lemke and Steve Spalding Pixel Print versions along with several new features. The Pixel Print Professional 5.0 package includes a fine looking 12 page users manual (which appears to have been produced with PPP) and a cassette tape containing the BASIC program and CODE files.

The foremost feature of PPP 5.0 is that it comes as "Fairware". According to the manual, "That means that you can give copies of this program to anyone and everyone...If you like this program and would like to see more software developed for the TS-2068, then please send $15 (or what ever you think is FAIR)"

The idea of Fairware is not new to the personal computer world, and the suggested amount is modest in compared with the features of the program.

Pixel Print Professional 5.0 consists of five programs or modules which are all integrated with the Pixel Print Professional "BOOT" program. The BOOT program presents a screen menu in order to help the user choose a desired module. The eight programs to choose from are: Pixel Print Professional, Create a Document, Print a Document, Tasword II, Tasword/MScript to DTP, Pixel Artist, Print-A-Page and Customized Print Driver. There is also a ninth option which displays the fairware message

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Pixel Print Professional 5.0 commands include:

Quit to BASIC
Enter Atrist program
View both page layouts
Move up or down 1, 8, 64 pixels
Set character height
Move to top or bottom of column
Set character width
Keep, Undo, Load and Save

Print a column, greeting card, or label
Change, Load, bold, kerning and spacing of fonts
Clear column or screen and, Block functions

PPP 5.0

As the author points out, Pixel Print Plus! is the heart of the system. With PPP, you mold your text, graphics and fonts into Newsletters, Greeting Cards, Mailing Labels, Index Cards and more. Pixel PPP, as in previous Pixel Print releases provides block cut, paste and delete, full and partial column saves and loads, along with font and icon loads. The user also has the option of loading and saving SCREEN$s.

This new Pixel Print Plus! has many special features, some old and some new. These special features include instant icon doubling, greeting card and label printing, disk catalog display, column exchange (when using 32K of expanded memory) and a menu option to enter the Artist module.

The Create a Document module/program lets the user combine several columns into pages of a document. It creates a collection of file names which is a Document Definition File. Create a Document options include Define Next Page which allows the user to define whether the column will contain a header and what two columns will make up the page, Edit a Page, Save the Document Definition and Quit.

Print a Document is used to load a document definition, format the document, select draft or NLQ mode, select the number of copies to be printed and to print the actual document.

The Tasword/MScript to PPP module does just that, it converts Tasword or MScript files to the PPP format. A font can be added before conversion.

Pixel Artist is a desktop publishing based module for creating graphics or SCREEN$s. There are several features, to many to discuss in this article but will be featured in a future issue of TSDPJ. Finally, there is Print a Page and Customize. Print a Page is self explanatory and Customize is used to adjust the print driver to match PPP to the users printer and I/F.

The information above is presented to wet the TS2068 desktop publisher's appetite. In upcoming issues of TSDPJ I hope to dig deeper into this fascinating and flexable desktop publishing package.

Where to Write

Pixel Print Professional Lemke Software Design 2114 White Oak Wichita, KS 67207	Word-Master Jack Dohany 435 Woodward Way Athens, GA 30606
The Print Factory Byte Power Magazine 1748 Meadowview Ave Pickering, ONT L1V 3G8 Canada	(after June 1990 use...) 390 Rutherford Redwood City, CA 94061

Word-Master

Let's first take a look at the whole package. Word-Master is a word processing package not unlike Tasword II or MScript. In fact it appears more like MScript because it displays on screen hard carriage returns and command sequences. Word-Master works in a 64 column format and supports Delete/Undelete, Block functions, Search and Replace, Pitch, Justification, Control Characters, Page Numbers and more. In itself, it is an excellent word processing program for creating documents.

So, what does this have to do with desktop publishing? Word-Master is just the "Text Processing" part of the package. Where the entire package is controlled by the "File Handling Menu" which is considered the "Main Menu". This Main Menu allows you to handle all of the file handling functions including Save/Load file, set default Drive 0, 1, 2... where Drive 0 is cassette, Drive 1, 2 etc. are your disk drives or micro drives, Catalog of selected drive, Erase file from disk, List files in memory, Delete file from memory, load graphics file into memory and Link files.

The best way to understand how everything comes together is this: Think of all your computer memory as a RAM Disk, with Word-Master residing within some of that memory, and controling what is left. This left over memory space in RAM can be used to store text, graphics, page patterns, fonts, etc. You can load in as many of these types of files as your memory will allow. All this is done through the Main Menu.

So you still don't see how this relates with desktop publishing? Well, along with being able to load in text files etc., you can also load into memory two programs, Typeliner and Headliner. Typeliner is the "Official" desktop publishing program, and Headliner is the graphic design program.

Typeliner is a tool which is used to format your text on the screen. It is extreamly flexable and allows you to create columns of almost any width or length, as well as breaking up the text into multiple pieces and placing them anywhere on the page. It has functions to place up to twelve graphic (or SCREEN$) files anywhere on the page and resize them. Typeliner also features built-in line and box creation on page. Finally, Typeliner is used to print the created page in either Near Letter Quality mode or Draft mode to your printer.

Headliner is a graphic design program which can be used to create headlines, titles and logos. It comes with six different fonts and can be used to draw circles, boxes or arcs which can be "filled" with default or user defined patterns. Although Headliner is not as comprehensive as other "draw" programs, it does come in handy for quick headlines.

Word-Master prices range from $18 to $67 depending on which options you choose. The base package, Word-Master (which you MUST have in order to use any of the other packages) costs $18, Headliner is $14, Typeliner is $24 and the Font Packs are $10 each. The entire package has a special price of $67 plus $3 shipping.

This article was just meant to give you a quick overview of the Word-Master desktop publishing system and it's extention programs. There are several additional features included in each package which were not mentioned hear but will be the subject of future articles in TSDPJ. For more information on Word-Master write to Jack Dohany and he will send you information on how you can receive a Word-Master trial offer. From what I gather, Jack can customize Word-Master to any Spectrum emulated system, disk system, printer I/F and printer.

TSDPJ Reviews Byte Power Magazine's The Print Factory First Edition

As promised, I am going to review each of the programs available within **The Print Factory** family of programs for the TS2068. This issue I plan to cover the DTP program **First Edition**.

When you receive The Print Factory in the mail, the first thing that catches your eye is the documentation that comes with the two program cassettes. The front page is a beautiful picture of two birds sitting on the branch of a tree, with the title **The Print Factory** written length wise along the right hand side. No doubt this is impressive, but what is more impressive is that this page can be completely constructed with a Print Factory program such as Fist Edition.

First Edition, like all of the Print Factory programs uses the "Point and Click" method of pull down/pop up menues for selection features, options or operations. For those of you who have not worked with this method, it is widely used by Apple's MacIntosh computers. The way it works is by using a joystick (TS2068 Left or Kempston) to move an arrow around the screen. At the top of the screen are several boxes with pictures or words within them that indicate operations. Using the joystick, you place the arrow on or in one of the boxes and press the Fire Button. This selects that option. It is that easy!

First Edition is a page maker program with which you can create posters, newsletters, cover pages and more. The program allows you to mix text and graphic designs on a single page. A normal page consists of 72 columns by 85 lines. This review was created using First Edition. In the AText mode, three standard fonts are available, and you have the option of loading other fonts. One interesting point about First Edition fonts is when a new font is loaded, it replaces a previous font and changes all of the characters on your page from the old font into the new font.

TS2068/Spectrum SCREEN$ files are not supported by First Edition, instead **Graphic Designs** are used. Graphic Designs take up much less memory space than SCREEN$s and they can be created using **The Creator**, another Print Factory program. Not to worry, eventhough First Edition does not allow screens, **The Press** will.

Graphic Designs contain something called **Super Sets**. These are super sized characters with excellent definition. Super Sets range from 8 to 48 points, and 13 additional sets come with The Print Factory. Once selected, Super Set characters are placed on your page by using the keyboard and typing the letters.

Suggested First Edition uses:

- Report Covers
- Posters
- Wedding Service Programs
- Net Worth/Financial Statement
- Newsletters
- Instruction Booklets
- Directions to Events
- Pre-Vacation Planners
- Emergency Phone Number List
- "Concentration" Game Boards
- Calendars
- Bingo Cards
- Certificates
- Forms

Text, Super Sets and Graphic Designs can be placed anywhere on your page by using the arrow keys for text and "Point and Click" for the rest. Other features include **HOME** and **END** which take you to the upper left corner and lower right corner of the page (respectively) in an instant. **PRINT** allows you to customize the print control codes for your particular type of printer as well as set dot density and printer I/F type. **FILE** is for saving pages, loading pages, graphics and fonts. You can clear the page, set width and legnth, and BREAK to BASIC to modify saves and loads from cassette to disk.

Three problems I see with First Edition are no ability to center text or Super Sets, which would be easier with a method to show where widthwise the cursor is located accross the page, and a view command simular to the one in the new Pixel Print. Everything is done using a 32 column window. Knowing where within the entire page this window is looking at at any given time is difficult to know, except in the case of a **HOME** or **END** command. Last is the lack of Cut, Paste or Copy commands.

The best features are of course the Super Sets, the full page work area, the Pop Up menus and the **FRAME** feature. Frame creates a border frame by selecting it, Point and Click the upper left corner then the lower right corner, and the program creates the whole frame for you.

Let's hand it to **Byte Power** for this excellent DTP program for both the TS2068 and Sinclair Spectrum. MJF.

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